

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 8 is added, and claim 1 is amended for clarity and to further distinguish over the applied reference. The amendments are supported in the specification by at least paragraphs [0011], [0013], [0016], [0019], [0048], [0051], [0053], [0055], [0059], and [0063].

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the January 13, 2006 personal interview, and the Examiner's agreement to permit the filing of this supplemental Amendment. Applicants' record of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

At the interview, the Examiner suggested that Okamoto at Fig. 27 discloses an electrode 20 that has openings at positions corresponding with smoothing layer 501. However, Okamoto fails to disclose a liquid crystal display device with an opening of an electrode that controls an alignment direction of the liquid crystal, as recited in claim 1. The alleged openings in the interspaces between elements 20 and 21 of Okamoto are covered by driving electrodes 19, and thus do not control an alignment direction of the liquid crystal.

With regard to new claim 8, Okamoto fails to disclose an electrode with an opening that is provided at a position corresponding to and wider than the inclined place of a thickness-adjusting layer.

In view of the foregoing and in view of the remarks of the December 15, 2005 Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Steven W. Allis  
Registration No. 50,532

JAO:SWA/jam

Date: February 2, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

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